

March 21, 2011

Senator Toni Harp

Appropriations Committee Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator L. Scott Frantz

My name is Tom Addison and I am a junior in the Stamford agriscience program. I live in Stamford and I Attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I enjoy what I learn in the program. I am in the UCONN ECE Horticulture and Oceanography. Both classes are interesting, but I particularly enjoy the horticulture class because I enjoy gardening and growing plants. In Fact, my SAE is I grow all of my vegetable plants from seed in my room and in the spring I move them into my backyard where I have three beds where they grow all summer. Me and two other friends (one of which is in the program) are looking into getting a stand at our local farmers market where we are planning on selling what we grow. I am also currently the Sentinel in our regional FFA and looking to be the President next year. All of these things that I have mentioned are going to help me attend a college of my choosing because our program is unique and it helps students find our niche. Thanks to this program I have a clear idea in what I want to do after high school and college. With more funding more students can get these opportunities I was lucky enough to enjoy.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Tom Addison
77 Redmont Rd
Stamford, CT 06903

